



Cover illustration by David M. Russell, Graphic Designer with Tessada & Associates, Inc., on the JIMMS contract. Dave is a talented artist who has worked at JSC in the Graphics Department for 19 years. Dave's unique style of pencil sketches has been requested for many projects over the years. His work can be seen on programs, presentations and newsletters. One of his most memorable designs is an exceptional tribute to the *Columbia* crew and their mission and is permanently displayed in the Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

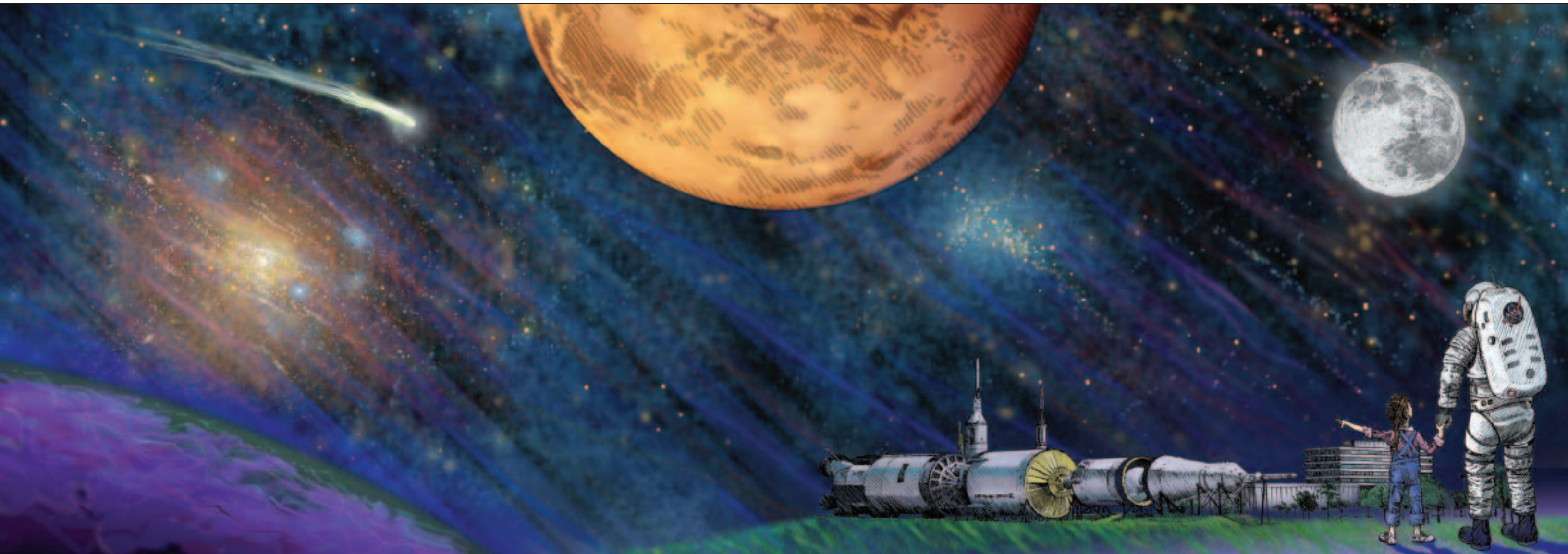
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Roundup

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Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center



Space Center Roundup

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2004 in review

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Making a difference



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Making a difference is an extremely important aspect of the human endeavor. All of us want to contribute to the betterment of our families, our communities and our society. President Ronald Reagan once said, “Many people go through life wondering if they’ve made a difference. The U.S. Marines don’t have to worry about that.” Being a Marine, I am very proud of that statement. Frankly, I think the same thing can be said about the women and men on the JSC team.

One only has to scan through this edition of the Roundup, with its reports on our achievements over the past year, to be impressed with the remarkable contribution that our team is making to every aspect of human spaceflight. I continually receive reports from NASA Headquarters and other center directors regarding the excellent work of JSC team members who make a positive difference while supporting their activities. The weekly activity reports also verify that, at JSC, making a difference is a way of life.

Making a difference can be painful, particularly in our line of work. Human spaceflight stirs strong passions in those of us who are involved, as well as those who are interested in this noble endeavor. Our miscues, large or small, real or perceived, often become national news and generate extreme criticism on the front pages of newspapers and lively discussions in the halls of Congress. The plethora of criticism could lead us to lose faith in ourselves and what we are about.

We cannot allow this to happen! Always remember how special you are and how important your work is to the future of our nation and the world. If we “stick to our guns” and approach all that we do each day, one step at a time, in accordance with our values of Safety, the NASA Family, Excellence and Integrity, our activities will lead to mission success in our journey of exploration and discovery. We will not be denied!

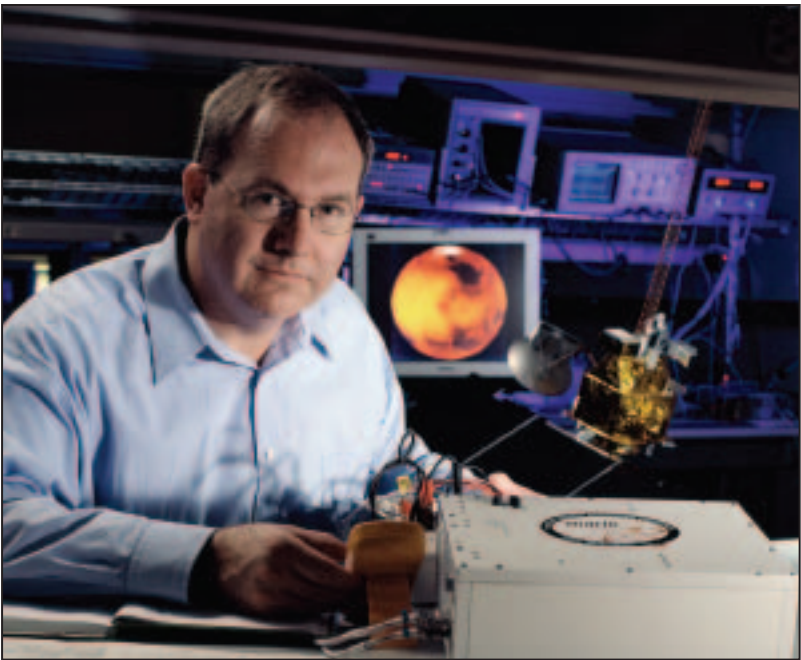
Be assured that you do make a difference and can be counted among those precious few who are helping humankind into the outer reaches of space. I’m proud to be on your team!

IT’S GREAT TO BE ALIVE AND IN HOUSTON!

Jefferson D. Howell Jr.



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EXPLORING EVERY DAY